



Harnessing American Ingenuity

News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

3701 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1714

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2005

Contact: Thomas G. Goodwin

(703) 560-7875

tom@steponecommunications.com

GRAND CHALLENGE 2005 SITE VISITS ANNOUNCED

118 Teams Selected

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced that 118 Grand Challenge 2005 teams have been selected to receive visits by DARPA personnel for in-depth, on-site evaluations of their autonomous vehicles.

From May 2 to May 15, 2005, DARPA personnel will visit the 118 teams at locations across the U.S. to assess each team's autonomous vehicle's capabilities on a 200-meter test course. The vehicles will be evaluated on their ability to navigate among waypoints, stay within course boundaries, and avoid randomly placed obstacles.

The site visits are an essential element of the qualification process for the Grand Challenge and will enable a realistic assessment of a vehicle's potential to complete the Grand Challenge course. According to the Grand Challenge 2005 Program Manager, Ron Kurjanowicz, "Site visits give DARPA a chance to meet the personnel, evaluate the autonomous operation of the vehicles, and assess other vehicle qualities required for a team's vehicle to finish the Grand Challenge route across the desert." The list of teams selected for site visits is below and on the official website at www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge.

DARPA will use the site visit results to invite the top 40 teams to the Grand Challenge National Qualification Event, September 27 to October 5, 2005, at the California Speedway in Fontana, California.

Kurjanowicz said the teams are working hard to ready their vehicles for the DARPA site visits and reiterated DARPA's appreciation for the enthusiastic response to the Grand Challenge from innovators across the United States and abroad. "A robust community of inventors, engineers, mechanics, students, and scientists has risen to meet the challenge to develop innovative autonomous vehicle capabilities that will save lives on the battlefield."

DARPA Grand Challenge 2005 is a field test of autonomous ground vehicles for the purpose of advancing autonomous vehicle technology. The vehicles must travel approximately 150 miles over rugged desert roads using only onboard sensors and navigation equipment to find and follow the route and avoid obstacles. DARPA will award \$2 million to the team whose autonomous vehicle successfully completes the 2005 route the fastest within a 10-hour time period. Teams are developing their vehicles without Government funding.

(more)

The teams selected for site visits are listed below. Based on the results of the site visits, DARPA will select 40 teams for the Grand Challenge 2005 National Qualification Event.

A.I. Motorvators	Intrepid	Team Improbability
Allied Forces	Kings High School/Team Robo	Team IQ (Intelligent Quad)
Alphalogix Alphaworks	Knight	Team Jefferson
Arctic Tortoise	KNetX	Team Juggernaut
Atlas Offroad	Lunatic Fringe	Team LoGHIQ
Austin Robot Technology	Mojavaton	Team Manticore - M.I.T.
Autobots	MonsterMoto	Team NOVA
Autonomous Ingenuity	Oregon WAVE	Team OCCAM
Autonomous Vehicle Systems	Palos Verdes Road Warriors	Team Overbot
AutonomX	Patriot Robots	Team Phantasm
Autonosys	Pegasus	Team Robo Monster
AutoTrek	Princeton University	Team Sleipnir
Axion Racing	"R" Junk Works	Team TerraMax
Bearcats	Red Team	Team Texas Tech
BJB Engineering	Red Team Too	Team Tormenta
Blue Team	Rob Meyer Productions	Team UCF
Cakewalk	Roboway	Team UMass Dartmouth
Calculated RISC	ROGUE	Team Underdawg
CIMAR	SciAutonics/Auburn	Team UTC
Cyber Nav	Engineering	Team Visionary Endeavor
CyberRider	Simple Solutions Inclusive	Team Wedge
D2	Spurrier's Hurriers	Team White Cougar
Dakota Robotics	Stanford Racing Team	Team XAR
Desert Arrow	Team Aggie Spirit (UC Davis)	Team-Possible
Desert Buckeyes	Team AION	Terra Engineering
Dotmobil Team	Team Alice	The A Team
Easy Does It	Team Banzai	The Golem Group / UCLA
G-CART @ RIT	Team Buffalo	The MITRE Meteorites
GP Machine Intelligence	Team CajunBot	The Prodigies
Grand Challenge New Zealand	Team CajunBot-II	Toughbot
GRASP Laboratory, University of	Team Cal Poly	Trobo
Pennsylvania	Team Caltech	Two Much Trouble (T.M.T.)
Gray Team	Team CART	UBC-CERM3 Team Thunderbird
Highlander Racing	Team Cornell	University of Washington
I to the Future	Team Cornell II	Utah Robotics
Indiana Robotic Navigation	Team CrossLand	Virginia Tech Grand Challenge
Indy Robot Racing Team	Team DAD	Team
Inginouity	Team ENSCO	Virginia Tech Team Rocky
Insight Racing	Team ET (Embedded	Vista Engineering
Intelligent Vehicle Safety	Technology)	West Coast Robotics
Technologies I	Team George	
Intelligent Vehicle Safety	Team Grand Challenger	
Technologies II		

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DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense. The agency manages basic and applied research and development projects for the DoD, and pursues research in technology areas where the risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances for traditional military roles and missions.